

November 28, 2012

To the CT Sentencing Commission,

Testimony:

I have been in and out of incarceration and the shelter systems for a very long time. Because of my criminal history I have been shut out from being able to get an apartment, a place to call home. Because of my criminal history I have been shut out of getting a job, a job that could help me get an apartment and a place to call home. I would like a place to call home and a job to start over and be a valued member of society again.

The Frequent User Service Enhancement Program/FUSE Program has enabled me to have affordable housing, a place to call home and case management service to restart my life. I am currently enrolled in college and have been certified as a Nurse's Aide. I am still struggling to find employment because of my criminal history which was nonviolent/non-sex offender offense.

I think it utmost importance to remove barriers to housing and employment for individuals who need a second chance to be productive members of society.

Thank you, Mike